

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 DODE-00
INT-05 IO-14 COME-00 CEQ-01 INRE-00 SMI-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2849
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2424

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, ICW-1, SENV, AS
SUBJ: 10 YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING

REF: (A) STATE 083587, (B) STATE 077088

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED REFTEL B WITH P. RYAN, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY, FISHERIES POLICY BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY
INDUSTRY.

2. IT WILL PROBABLY BE NO SURPRISE TO DEPARTMENT THAT RYAN
DECLARED THAT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON
MORATORIUM HASN'T CHANGED AND IS NOT LIKELY TO, CERTAINLY
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BEFORE THE PUBLICATION, MANY MONTHS HENCE, OF A RECENTLY
COMMENCED INQUIRY INTO THE ENTIRE SCOPE OF AUSTRALIA'S
WHALING POLICY, ESPECIALLY WHETHER IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO
ALLOW WHALING IN AUSTRALIA. RYAN SAID THAT PENDING THE
CONCLUSION OF THIS INQUIRY AUSTRALIA WOULD "STAND-PAT" ON
ITS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POLICIES.

3. RYAN SAID THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD BE AWARE THAT AUSTRALIA HAS STOOD "FOUR SQUARE" BEHIND THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF THEY IWC TO ALLOW WHALING FOR CERTAIN SPECIES BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE. GOA SEES NO CAUSE FOR A BLANKET MORATORIUM AND VIEWS THE SUGGESTION FOR A 10 YEAR MORATORIUM AS IRREVELANT (WHY 10 YEARS?, RYAN ASKED).

4. RYAN SAID THAT NOT ONLY WOULD THE GOA NOT SUPPORT A PROPOSAL FOR A 10 YEAR MORATORIUM, BUT THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT IN HIS VIEW IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS WERE THE U.S. TO GO AHEAD AND TRY TO PLACE PROPOSAL ON AGENDA. HE SAID THAT SHOULD THE PROPOSAL REACH THE AGENDA, AND SHOULD IT HAPPEN TO PASS BY NECESSARY MAJORITY, THEN IN ALL LIKELIHOOD THE WHALING NATIONS WOULD IGNORE MORATORIUM AND THAT THIS WOULD CERTAINLY IMMENSELY WEAKEN INFLUENCE OF IWC AND VERY POSSIBLY BRING ABOUT ITS DISSOLUTION.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RYAN ADMITTED THAT MANY OF VIEWS EXPRESSED IN PARA 4 ARE HIS PERSONAL BELIEFS, IN VIEW INFLUENCE OF FISHERIES DIVISION IN WHALING MATTERS, ACTUAL GOA POSITION AT FORTHCOMING LONDON IWC MEETING CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE SIMILAR.
ALSTON

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